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February 14, 2019

Chair Witt
Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2351

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2351. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 40 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

Statewide Land Use Goal 15 is focused on the protection of the Willamette River Greenway. Its purpose is:

“To protect, conserve, enhance and maintain the natural, scenic, historical, agricultural, economic and recreational qualities of lands along the Willamette River as the Willamette River Greenway.”

Achieving this Goal requires, among other things, coordination with the State Marine Board and its activities. HB 2351 would authorize State Marine Board to adopt regulations to protect the Willamette shoreline, including regulating boat operation and designating speeds or other methods to manage boat wake energy, in order to protect the shoreline, property, fish and wildlife habitat, and vegetation. This is a necessary step to ensure that boat operations, including the wakes they generate, take into account the Willamette River Greenway Plan adopted under Goal 15.

We urge you to support HB 2351. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director